implementation of the Scheme with effect from 15th August 1987. To begin with, the Scheme will be operated for a period of three years and during this period the entire premium liability will be borne by the Government of India. Under the Scheme which will cover all landless agricultural labourers in India, within the age group of 18 to 60, the Life Insurance Corporation of India will pay a sum of Rs. 1000 to the nominee of the landless agricultural labourer in the event of his death. For such insurance cover, no premium is to be paid by the landless agricultural labourers. LIC, will operate this scheme on a 'no profit no loss' basis as the objective of the Scheme is to provide insurance protection to all landless agricultural labourers.

Use of Rabindra Rangashala

***2038. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the capital's first open air theatre Rabindra Rangashala lies unused for a long time; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any plans to renovate and make use of this theatre for the purpose for which it was built?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The theatre has not proved to be very popular with public because of its location. Still it has been used for performances of various types including film shows.

The theatre is being transferred to the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, so that it can be used for cultural activities in a more purposeful manner.

***Previously Unstarred Question 1288, transferred from the 5th August, 1987.

Development of super absorbment polymer

$2039. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a super absorbment polymer named "Jal Shakti" has been developed by the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona which has the quality to retain water about two hundred times its weight and whether the scientists feel that this will revolutionise agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to produce enough quantity of "Jal Shakti" per annum and how it will be made available to the farmers; and

(c) what will be the cost of this polymer and whether it will be subsidised so that the small and landless farmers can make use of this polymer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Process for manufacture of "Jal Shakti" has been developed by the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona in collaboration with Indian Organic Chemicals Limited, Bombay who has set up a semi-commercial plant having a capacity of two hundred tons per annum. The firm has also obtained Government approval to set up a 5000 ton per annum capacity commercial plant for producing the polymer "Jal Shakti". They are distributing| market testing|selling this product all over India.

(c) The present ex-factory cost of "Jal Shakti" is Rs. 80 per kilo-gram which is expected to come down when production on large scale starts coupled with further R&D efforts. At present there is no subsidy on "Jal Shakti".

$Previously Unstarred Question 1392 transferred from the 7th August, 1987.